A new up-scale residental landscaping company operates on renovated farm

by Mary Lou Byrd

A new business is sprouting along Braggtown Road in rural Dillsburg.

Country Market Landscaping Service, owned by William L. Hess of Carroll Township, was reorganized and transplanted in January from its original location on Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg.

The business sits approximately two-and a half miles off U.S. Route 15 in Washington Township, York County.

A renovated old barn with a rustic decor houses the company offices. The renovation took exactly two months to complete this winter, Hess said. He purchased the farm property in August 1989.

Hess describes his business as a "landscape/horticultural contracting facility."

"It is not a retail situation," he emphasized.

Hess defines the company's designing and installation market as "up-scale residential."

All the services are individualized, he continued. Clients pay a one-time $50 consultation fee, which serves as a deposit on a landscape plan, he said.

The company operates as follows. First, the consultant visits the area to be landscaped. According to Hess, the site could be a small bank, an outdoor living area, such as a patio or pool site or an entire residential or office property.

A sketch is made of the area, and the design department takes over to formulate a landscaping plan. In analyzing the site, the client's personal needs and preferences are considered along with the horticultural principles and aesthetics recommended by the designer.

"We take the client's thoughts and bring our expertise into play to give a final result," Hess explained.

"We develop an entire landscaping package," Hess continued. The company handles everything from selecting the plant material to designing the lighting, he said. It handles and oversees the design, installation, construction, and maintenance of the site. Subcontractors are hired for concrete work, lighting installation, etc., Hess said.

"We're the project supervisors," Hess explained. The clients appreciate not having to communicate with four or five subcontractors, he added.

"Professionalism," Hess said, is the key to effective landscaping. He encourages people to turn away from the "hit or miss" quality of do-it-yourself landscaping.

Hess said people err by reacting on impulse. Immediately after the weather turns warm, people go out an buy "pretty" plants, and stick them in the ground without much consideration, he said.

"Many don't know the size of the plants at maturity," he added.

"Plan before you plant," Hess emphasized.

If hiring a professional landscaper is not within your budget, do your homework to become informed enough to "purchase plants that will work" on your property, Hess advised.

According to Hess, Country Market Landscaping has approximately 700-800 clients.

Many area residents already are familiar with the company's work. For the past five years, Hess was the chairman in charge of landscaping the feature home at the annual Pennsylvania Home Builders Show in Harrisburg. He also had displays at the York Lawn and Garden Show.

Photo by David March

Owner Bill Hess says, "We're here for keeps." The barn in background has been renovated into offices, conference and waiting rooms.

This summer the company will have four to seven crews of installation workers. As of this spring, there are three Pennsylvania Accredited Nurserymen (PANs) in the company and twelve who are studying to become certified, Hess said. Hess has served on a Pennsylvania Nurserymen Association committee to develop the 200-page manual used by PAN candidates.

Hess, who started the company in 1974, said it continues to be an "on-growing" project at the new site.

Plans on site include tree production, plant propagation, demonstration gardens, and a landscape lighting laboratory, Hess said. Educational seminars will be held in the renovated barn, he added.

Eventually, Hess plans to have computer-assisted design. With new technology, a computer can show a client how his landscaped property will appear when the plants reach maturity.

Softball season ends

Another season of Northern girl's softball is history, a disappointing season, to say the least. The varsity's record was 4-15, 2-11 in league play. This year was the first for a junior varsity squad. In spite of their 0-8 record, the girls gained some valuable experience for next season.

Jenny Prough was named the outstanding offensive player and also the team's MVP. She led the team in batting with a .362 average. "JP" proved her value to the team as she was asked to fill many different spots in the batting order. The team looked to Jenny for leadership and received it. A senior, she will be missed next year.

Beth Graham was named the outstanding defensive player for this season. Beth pitched in 16 games, 107.3 innings. Although her record was 4-12, she struck out 80 batters while giving up 43 earned runs for a 2.94 ERA. She also ended the season with a .341 batting average and an on-base percentage of .610. These stats earned her a berth on the Mid-Penn Conference Division 3 All Stars.

Swimming areas to open

Beginning June 9, the state park swimming facilities will be open daily until Labor Day, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., unless posted otherwise.

All beaches in the state parks are free, while 10 of the 16 pools charge an admission fee ranging from $1.75 to $2.50. Reduced rates are available for the handicapped, campers and groups.

Mathematics writing workshop

What does writing have to do with the practice and learning of mathematics? Some would think not much, but a growing number of educators think the teaching and use of writing should not be confined to the English Department. Twelve college mathematics faculty members from schools throughout Pennsylvania and Ohio will come together June 11-13 at Messiah College to discuss writing as a vehicle to enhance their teaching.

The workshop, sponsored by the Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware Section Mathematical Association of America, will help participants explore the use of writing to support the learning of college mathematics. The group will focus on writing activities such as expressive writing, journals and autobiographical narratives, and writing to inform or persuade, essays, reports, projects, and stories.

The participants all share the conviction that writing to learn mathematics has a variety of benefits for the classroom - for the student as writer, for the teacher as reader, and for student-teacher interaction in the classroom. Research data and personal experiences will be used to examine these benefits.

Dr. Barbara Rose, Professor of Mathematics at Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, New York, will lead the workshop.

For further information contact Professor Marvin Brubaker, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Messiah College, (717) 766-2511.

EQB adopts strict medical waste plan

The State Environmental Quality Board (EQB) this week adopted a comprehensive plan that places stringent restrictions for commercial medical waste incinerators in Pennsylvania.

The Department of Environmental Resources (DER) was required to develop the plan under the Infectious and Chemotherapeutic Waste Disposal Act of 1988.

More than 26,500 tons of medical waste is generated each year in Pennsylvania, most of it from hospitals. The quantity of medical waste is expected to increase significantly during the next decade as demand for health care services increases.

Medical waste includes human body parts and tissues, blood and body fluids, needles, vaccines, cultures, and carcasses and body parts of animals exposed to contagious diseases, syringes, tubing and waste from chemotherapy.

Under the plan, Pennsylvania will be divided into three zones, eastern, central and western.

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Former Dillsburg resident tells of the "breaking down" of the Berlin Wall

My family and I currently live in West Berlin, Germany, where I serve with the 298th U.S. Army Band. Over these past months we were privileged to witness the dramatic events that began with the opening of the Berlin Wall and are continuing, to date, with East Germany's first free elections. We are able to see broadcasts of stateside network news coverage on armed forces so we have some sense of the news that's being broadcast in the states. But as I sit here on the eve of those elections, it is important to me that I be able to put all the tumult into a more personal perspective.

I was born in 1959 so I was largely unaware of the cold war's coldest days; the most that I can recall of John F. Kennedy's presidence is the television coverage of his funeral. When I was becoming aware of the world, communism was spreading in Southeast Asia, not Europe and east west relations were characterized by the word "detente". Yet, in spite of that, my having lived in this remarkable city, and especially having seen life in communist East Berlin, makes it impossible for me to be untouched by the winter's events. Nor can I allow myself to forget what I have seen, heard, and felt here.

A member of my unit called me at about 8:30 p.m. on Nov. 9, a Thursday night. I hadn't heard the news but neither of us could believe the reports. We decided the best way to verify what was at this point still a rumor was to go to Checkpoint Charlie. When we arrived at the checkpoint there was already a small crowd of the curious, but we could see no evidence of the border being open. We did notice the uncharacteristic behavior of the East German Border Guards (Volks Polizei or "VoPo"). When the crowd from the west pushed past the boundary line painted on the street, the "VoPo" rushed out, formed a line, and quietly guided the crowd back across the line. That was the closest thing to a confrontation that we observed. By 11:00 p.m. we still had seen no one cross the border, but Australian and Canadian news teams were conducting interviews and one member of the Canadian crew confirmed what we had heard. We decided to head for the Brandenburg Gate to see if perhaps there was more activity there. On the way, we passed the civilian checkpoint at Invaliden Strasse where we could see that the outpouring had started. My friends and I stood in the crowd and watched as the East Berliners crossed through the yellow-lighted concrete checkpoint into the wave of cheering, champagne, and hugs that swallowed each car in turn. I know that the news reported that many East Berliners came over only to visit, but in those first hours, many cars had much more than one night's luggage strapped to the roof. One scene that I can never forget is of a man of about 35 sitting in the passenger seat of a small dishevelled van. There were others with him and the van was overloaded with parcels of some sort but I can only remember him. This large man sat holding his palms to his cheeks, mouth open, crying; his wet eyes scanned the crowd and the buildings and the lights as he slowly shook his head in complete bewilderment. He was feeling more than he could handle and the excess spilled out and stunned us all. Even now I can't forget the singular gravity of that crowd and that night.

The city changed immediately. Streets were busier, traffic was certainly heavier, and th air was filled with the distinctive smell of the exhaust from the east German and Czechoslovakian two-cycle car engines. Additional entrance points were opened up. Once was opened about 500 meters from our apartment (we live near a southern section of the wall). One

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See The Wall

Local potter holds open house this weekend

Functional stoneware highlight his designs

Ceramic artist and potter Mark Fitzgerald of Dillsburg will present an open house at his studio/workshop and showroom on Friday, June 8 through Monday, June 11, 1990 from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. each day. On display will be a full line of functional stoneware pottery as well as many one of a kind pieces.

Mark Fitzgerald has shown extensively throughout the United States at contemporary Craft shows and galleries. His work is also featured in several National and International collections.

Mr. Fitzgerald has been working professionally for 16 years. He received most of his training and skill development at The Clay Art Center in the New York City Metropolitan area. After 4 1/2 years of working there he established his own workshop at his present location at 934 Range End Road, Dillsburg.

Concentrating primarily on the functional aspects of Ceramics, he produces handsome work that is strong in form and warm in coloration, conforming to the high standards of integrity and excellence. It is work that truly appears in either traditional or contemporary tastes.

For information regarding the Open House, Mr. Fitzgerald can be contacted during his regular business hours which are Monday-Friday 10:00-5:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00-3:00 p.m. at 432-8124.

Mark Fitzgerald at work in his shop on Range End Road.